



# HUMAN/ANIMAL BITES

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Purpose: To provide first aid for bite injuries.
- B. An injury that results when bitten by a human or an animal.
- C. Causes:
  - 1. Human bites are usually caused by either an actual bite or from a fight where the victim injures his body (such as knuckles) on someone else's teeth.
  - 2. Animal bites can be caused by classroom pets or by encountering an animal, either before or after school, or on the school grounds.
- D. Dog bites likely to be open, jagged lacerations which can be thoroughly irrigated, have a low infection rate, and usually require no prophylactic antibiotics.
- E. Cat bites are usually deep puncture wounds and have a high infection rate. They often require prophylactic antibiotics.
- F. Human bites that break the skin have the greatest potential for infection. Also, consider transmission of Hepatitis B to both students.
- G. Puncture wounds present a high risk of infection. Besides the bacteria which can cause infection, there is a risk of injury to tendons and joints when the wound extends below the skin.
- H. Bites are very common among young children.
- I. Children often bite to express anger or other negative feelings.
- J. While it is theoretically possible for any mammal to develop rabies, rodents have not been implicated in transmitting the disease; therefore a child bitten by a rodent is not considered to be in danger, but a physician should be consulted. Common carriers of rabies are dogs, cats, foxes, skunks, raccoons, and etc.

## II. PERSONNEL

- A. School Nurse: The school nurse is the direct and indirect procedural supervisor responsible for training and monitoring involved staff.
- B. Designated school personnel under direct or indirect supervision by the school nurse.



## HUMAN/ANIMAL BITES

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

PROCEDURE	
ESSENTIAL STEPS	KEY POINTS & PRECAUTIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognize signs of bite injury and immediately implement appropriate first aid:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Superficial skin breaks with no bleeding.</li> <li>b. Puncture type wounds.</li> <li>c. Major lacerations.</li> <li>d. Crushing injuries.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Calm and reassure the victim.</li> <li>3. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap.</li> <li>4. If the bite is not bleeding severely, wash the wound with mild soap and running water for 3 to 5 minutes and then cover bite with a clean dressing.</li> <li>5. If the bite is actively bleeding, control the bleeding by applying direct pressure with a clean, dry cloth until the bleeding subsides. Elevating the area is also recommended.</li> <li>6. A cold pack can be applied to prevent or minimize swelling and relieve discomfort.</li> <li>7. Seek medical attention for all bites.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Verify immunization status of Tetanus and Hepatitis B series.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. Document on a Medical Incident Report the following:               <p>Location of wound, size, break in skin, if through the skin or not, and care provided.</p> </li> <li>9. The parent/care-providers of both students involved must be notified and the names may not be shared without parental consent.</li> </ol>	<p>School Nurse and parent/care-provider should always be notified of any bite injuries.</p> <p><b>DO NOT:</b></p> <p>Do not ignore any human bite, especially if there is bleeding.</p> <p>The perpetrator's mouth should be inspected for any visible blood or breaks in the mucous membrane.</p> <p>Call 911 for any uncontrolled bleeding, respiratory distress, or condition worsens.</p> <p>Report <u>must not</u> include the name of any students.</p> <p>Separate report for the perpetrator should be completed and include any visual sign of blood and/or mucous membrane tears.</p> <p>Parents should be advised to seek medical advice regarding the bite, potential cross contamination of blood borne pathogens, and any other possible risk to their child.</p>